

## ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

5 A system and method for traffic congestion control at the media access controller (MAC) level. The MAC receives an inbound packet and preclassifies the packet for determining its priority. A utilization level of a queue associated with the determined priority is analyzed for determining its level of congestion. The packet is admitted or not based on the  
10 congestion information. Admitted packets are forwarded to the packet switching controller which engages in further classification and congestion control for determining whether the admitted packet is to be forwarded to a destination address.

15  
382533-1  
20  
25  
30  
35

10058710-020602